

# WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

05/03/2025

Alicia - Career Advisor

Rachel – EDGE team  
Centre for Career Development



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# Who am I?

## Alicia Flatt – Career Advisor

(she/her)

- Bachelor of Arts: Psychology, History, and Theatre Arts
- Career Development Practitioner diploma
- Master of Arts in Higher Education



Residence Life and custodian -> Financial Aid officer -> Transfer Credit Officer ->  
Admissions Coordinator

# TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is coordinated within the Office of Indigenous Relations.

[UWaterloo Indigenous Peoples in Canada Reading List](#)

# HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

- Session will be recorded
- How to participate
  - Add your questions in the chat anytime!
- Let's work together to keep this a safe space

# What are you curious about?

1) Should I do co-op?

2) What is EDGE or should I do EDGE?

3) What major should I declare?

Give me a number in the chat!



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# AGENDA

- What would life look like if I chose co-op?
- What would life look like if I picked a regular program/EDGE?
- What should I think about when choosing a major?



# SHOULD I BE IN A CO-OP PROGRAM?

Short answer – maybe!

# Co-op could be great if you:



Like taking on a challenge



Are okay to move occasionally for a job



Want to test out different career paths



Want access to the jobs posted on the WaterlooWorks Co-op Job Boards



Recognize that looking for a job is equivalent to the workload of an additional course



# Co-op may not be for you if:



Want your summers free



Do not want to move very often



Would rather focus on your academics during study terms



Don't want to pay the co-op fee (\$817)



Want to graduate faster

# SAMPLE JOB CATEGORIES

- Marketing and communications
- Research and analysis
- Human resources/services
- Administration and support services
- Policy and Government services
- Business development and sales
- Education and training

# SAMPLE EMPLOYERS

## ▪ Education:

1. D2L (Desire2Learn)
2. Sheridan College
3. Toronto District School Board

## Finance/Banking:

1. Manulife Financial
2. RBC Financial Group
3. Scotiabank

## Government/Public Sector:

1. National Research Council Canada
2. Ontario Ministry of Finance
3. Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
4. Peel Regional Police
5. Treasury Board agency

## Technology/IT:

1. ApplyBoard
2. CGI Group Inc
3. Clearpath Robotics

# YOUR SKILLS- EXAMPLES

Arts Skills	What You Can Do For Employers	
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Literature reviews</li> <li>✓ Identify best practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Industry trends/competitor analysis</li> <li>✓ Utilize CRM software tools</li> </ul>
Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Storytelling –share product/services in a compelling way</li> <li>✓ Content generation and digital marketing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Photo, video and website design</li> <li>✓ User experience</li> <li>✓ Staff wellness and engagement</li> </ul>
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Writing –reports, proposals, grants, project updates</li> <li>✓ Compile information into charts and graphs</li> <li>✓ Instruct/educate others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Update and maintain records, processes and projects</li> <li>✓ Adapt info/communication pieces for a variety of audiences</li> </ul>

# INTERNATIONAL CO-OP STUDENTS

- You will need a co-op work permit to accept a co-op job
- You can not work on a study permit
- Processing times can be lengthy, apply as soon as possible
- SSO Immigration Consultants:
  - Book an appointment
  - Review application instructions online



# THE EDGE PROGRAM





Rachel Zammit (she/her)  
EDGE Advisor

Centre for Work-Integrated Learning

# WHAT IS EDGE?

Academic certificate  
program

Regular stream  
undergraduate students

Strong focus on career  
readiness

Opt-in, free, flexible



One career development  
course



Two workshops



Three work or community  
experiences

# HOW EDGE WORKS



Students can register for EDGE online.



Students in the program see their EDGE milestones on their transcript.



Students complete EDGE at their own pace throughout their undergraduate degree.



Students complete a total of 6 milestones.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- What happens when a student graduates with the EDGE certification?
- What if someone doesn't finish the program?
- How long does it take to complete EDGE?
- Can international students participate in EDGE?
- How do students register?
- Where should students go for more information?
- How much does the EDGE certificate cost?

# REGISTER FOR EDGE!

1. Scan the code to get to our registration page
2. Complete the online registration form
3. Wait for a welcome email from the EDGE team!



## More questions? Get in touch with the EDGE Team!

 [edge@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:edge@uwaterloo.ca)

 [@uwaterlooege](https://www.instagram.com/uwaterlooege)

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# WHAT ABOUT MY MAJOR?



The 28 majors you choose from are:

- [Anthropology](#)
- [Classical Studies](#) (or Classics)
- [Communication Studies](#) (or Communication Arts and Design Practice)
- [Economics](#)
- [English](#) (choose Creative and Professional Writing, Literature, Literature and Rhetoric, or Rhetoric, Media, and Professional Communication)
- [Fine Arts](#) (choose Studio Practice or Visual Culture)
- [French](#)
- [Gender and Social Justice](#)
- [History](#)
- [Legal Studies](#)
- [Liberal Studies](#)
- [Medieval Studies](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Peace and Conflict Studies](#)
- [Philosophy](#)
- [Political Science](#)
- [Psychology](#)
- [Religious Studies](#)
- [Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies](#)
- [Social Development Studies](#)\*
- [Sociology](#)
- [Theatre and Performance](#)

\*also available as an entry program



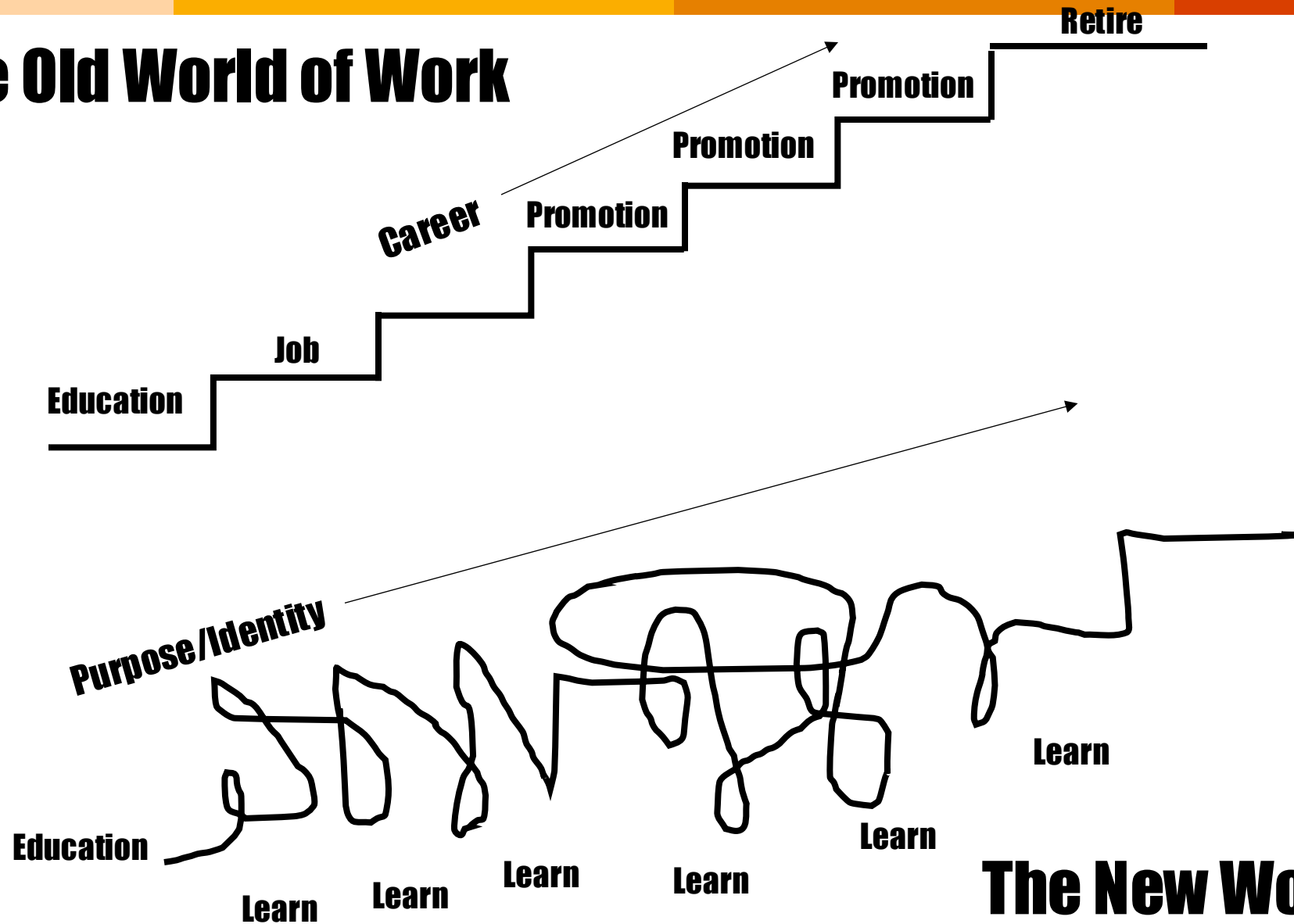
## MYTH

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“My choice of major will completely determine the kind of jobs I get”

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# The Old World of Work



# Questions to ask yourself



What am I curious to learn about?



What problems exist in the world that I would like to help solve?



What demographic of people do I really enjoy working with or being around?



What skills do I enjoy using?

**Purpose/challenge  
driven**

**~~"What do I want to be?"~~**

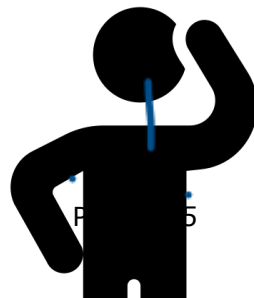


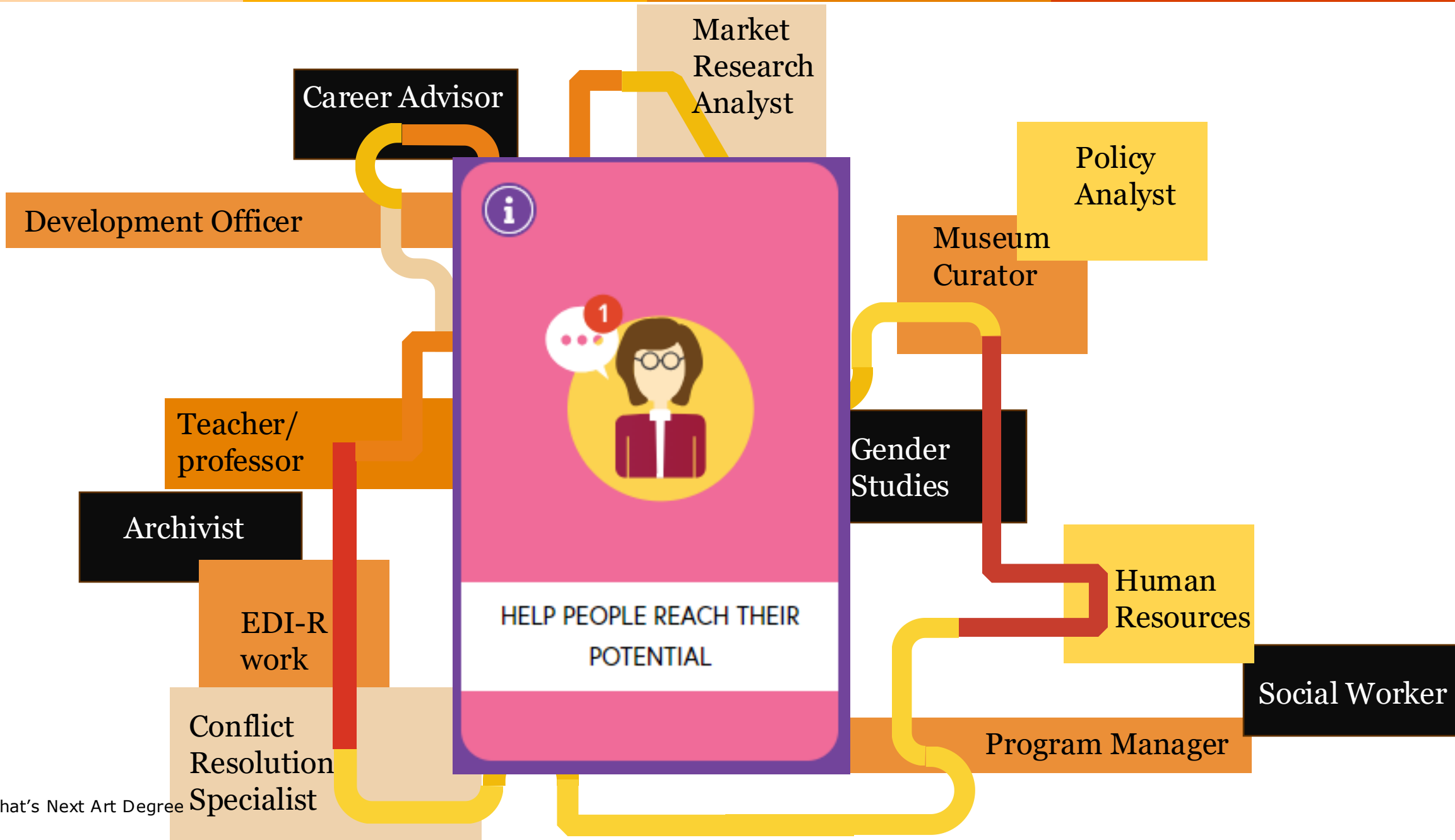
**"What problems do I want to solve?"**

**&**

**"What skills do I have/need to  
develop?"**

**Value and  
potential of  
my Arts  
Degree**

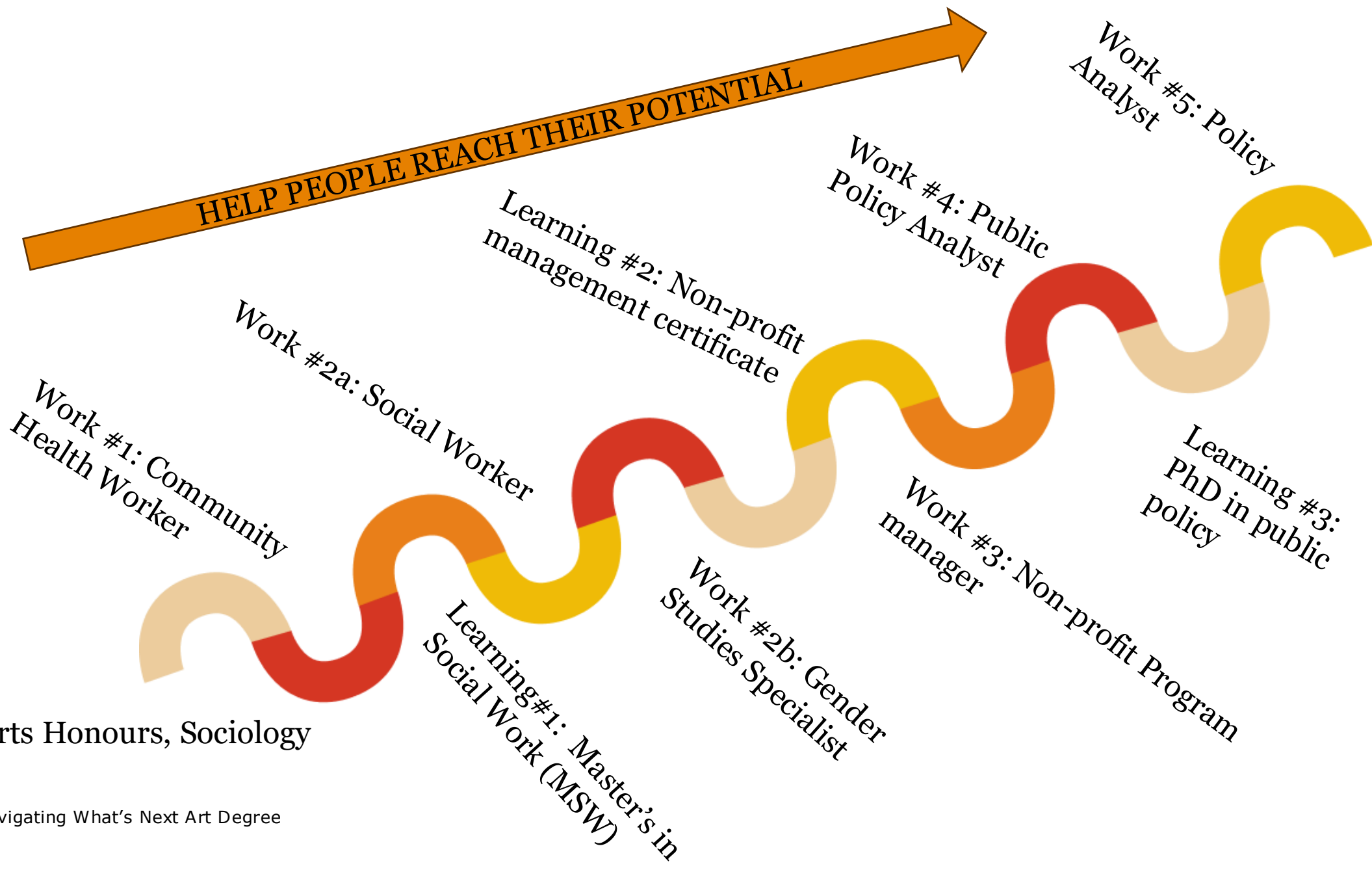






Arts Honours, Sociology

Navigating What's Next Art Degree



# What problems do I want to solve?

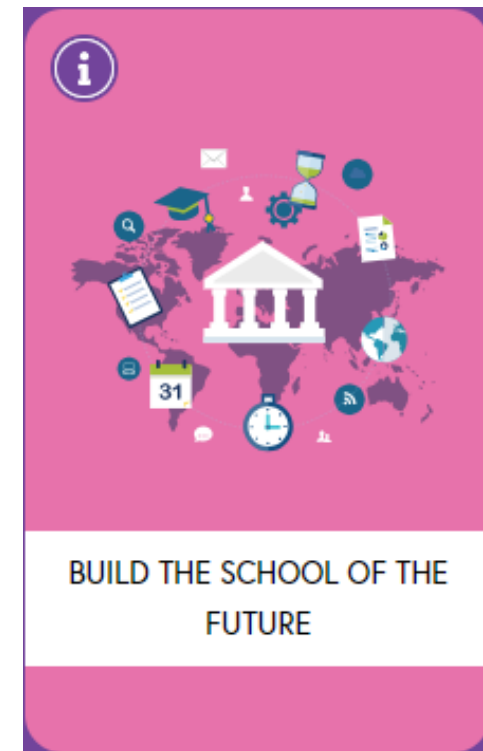
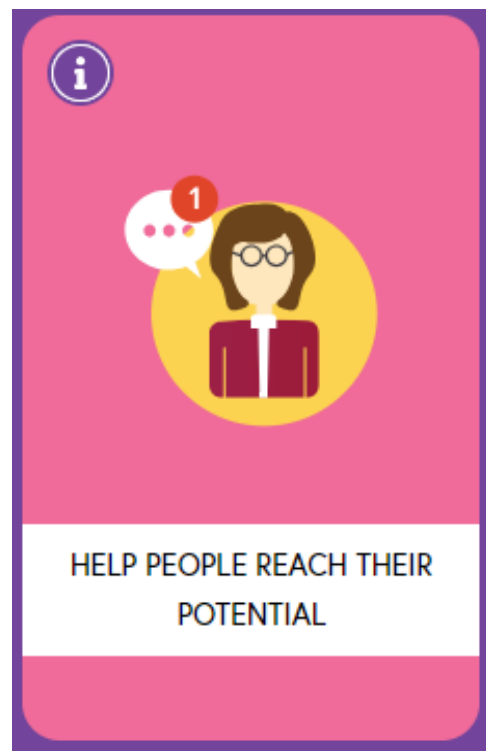
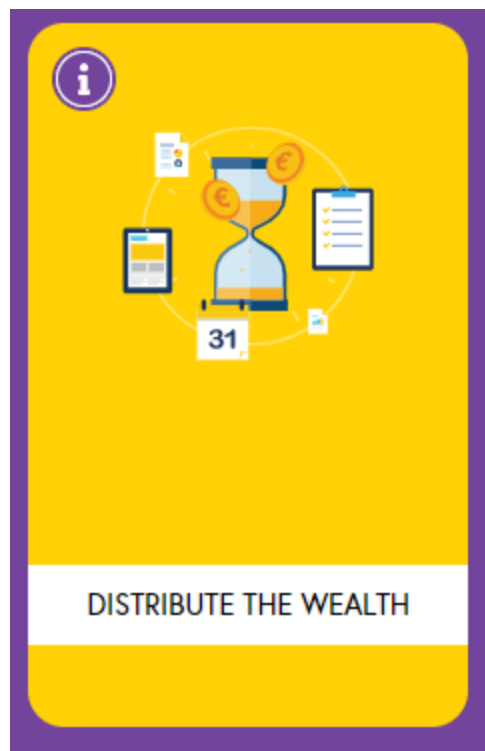


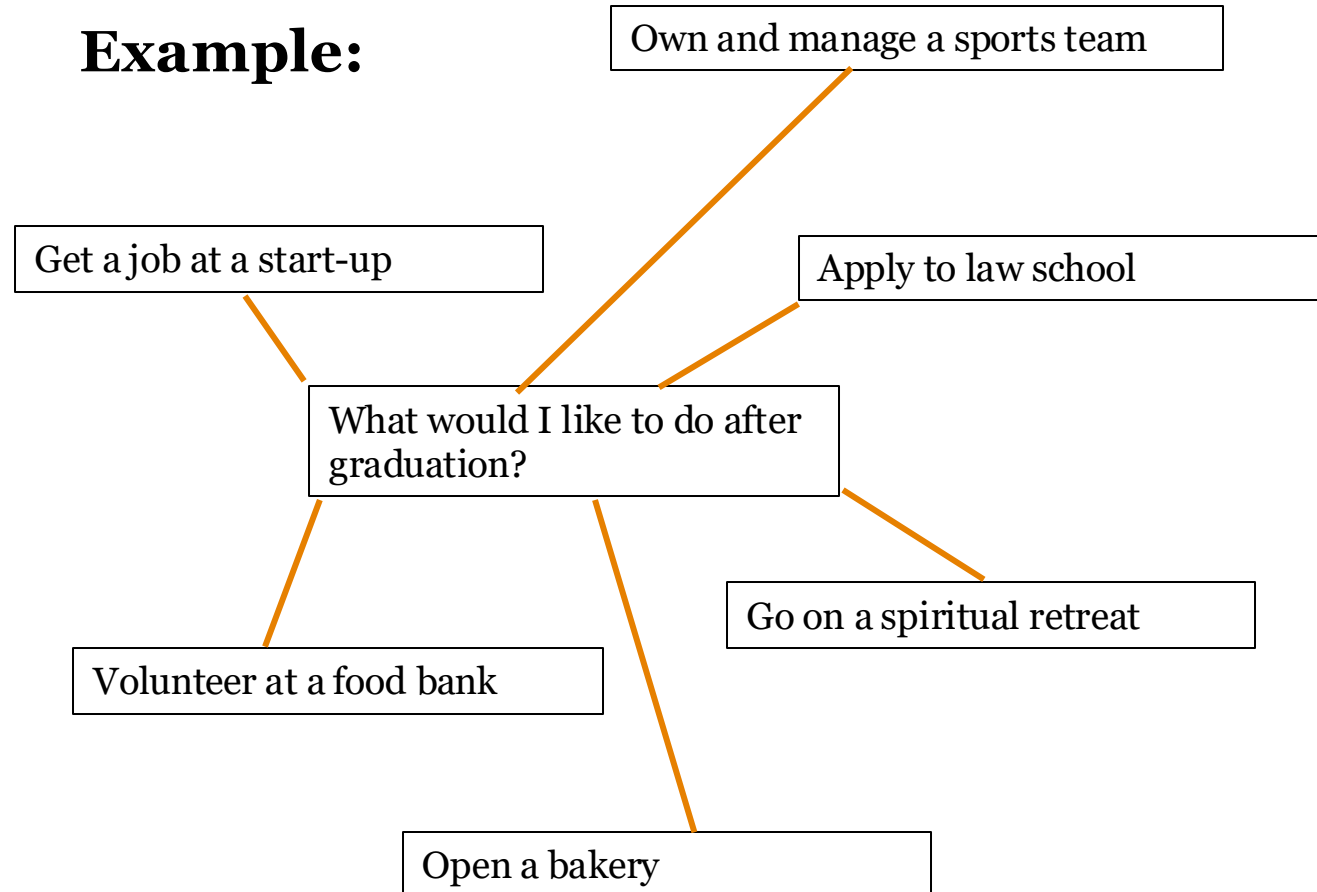
Image Credits: <https://mysparkpath.com/>

# ACTIVITY: Mind-Mapping (3 mins)

Jot down as many answers as possible to the question: "What would I like to do after graduation?"

- *What's the most realistic version of your post-graduation life?*
- *What would you do if your Plan A was no longer possible?*
- *What would you do if resources or external pressures were not a factor?*

## Example:





# HOW YOU CAN PREPARE

For the future of work

## 2. INFORMATION SEEKING

- Making decisions about where to spend time/energy (learning, work, volunteer, clubs, hobbies, etc.)
- Commitment to life-long learning and skill development
  - What skills are important for me to have?
  - How can I find ways to develop and apply my skills?
- Seeking out and evaluating information
  - Conducting labour market research
  - Networking (leveraging existing connections and building new ones)

Action Item!

Consider a fun and valuable experience for this summer



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### 3. ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT AND APPLICATION

- Continuous reflection of skills, interests and motivations
- Learning new things – self-taught, micro-courses
- Effectively searching/using job boards
- Creating and constantly improving application documents and online presence
- Refining approach to formal and informational interviews

Action Item!

Book an Ask Me Anything Appointment with your Career Advisor today!



# SOME PRACTICAL ACTION ITEMS FOR THE SUMMER

- Self-reflection & journalling
- Talk to your Career Advisor and access Waterloo's Career Resources
  - Career Appointments/Drop ins
  - Workshops & [Career Hub](#)
- Talk to your network of friends, family members, mentors, or colleagues about different opportunities available to you.
- Get a driver's license if you don't have one
- ***Engage in Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) opportunities at Waterloo***



**QUESTIONS?**

## **Career Advisors**



**Finding Opportunities  
(jobs, volunteer, etc.)**

**Networking**

**Résumé**

**Cover Letter**

**Interview Prep**

**Career Exploration**

## **Co-op Advisors**



**Co-op and WaterlooWorks**

**Arranging your Own Job**

**Work Search Strategies**

**Co-op Degree  
Requirements**

## **Immigration Consultants**



**Co-op Work Permits**

**Study Permit**

**Electronic Travel  
Authorization (eTA)**

**Social Insurance Number**

**Creating a Bank Account**

**Find an Immigration  
Consultant**

# RESOURCES: CCD APOINTMENTS, WORKSHOPS/EVENTS



**Job Search Tactics**  
**Résumé**  
**Cover Letter**  
**Interview Prep**  
**Career Exploration**



**Individual Appointments**  
**Drop-ins**  
**Workshops**  
**Online Resources**


<https://uwaterloo.ca/career-development/>



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# LINKS TO EXPLORE

HOME

You are currently logged in as

Dashboard

Hire Waterloo Co-op

Hire Waterloo

- Full-time Jobs
- Other Jobs

External Job Boards

Employer Information Sessions

Career Centre Events

Additional Networking & Professional Events


**APPOINTMENTS**

- Drop-Ins
- Appointments - Further Education/Alumni
- Appointments - Graduate Students/Postdocs
- Appointments - Undergraduate Students


Help

Logout


## Appointment Modules




**Same-day, virtual drop-ins (for ALL students)** – 15-minute conversations about **résumés, cover letters, interviews, work search, career consults, or further education support.**




**Same-day virtual co-op consults (for students in their FIRST recruitment term)** - Have a co-op question? Connect through our Live Chat or phone 519-888-4047 to book a conversation. After your first recruitment term, please send a message through WaterlooWorks to your Student Advisor.




**Further Education** – Support for planning, applying and interviewing for professional school (Medical School, Physiotherapy, Optometry, Law School, etc.) This includes personal statement reviews and any documents contained in your application. *\*If you are looking for graduate school prep, please start with CareerHub and then book a drop-in if needed. To request Further Education support, please complete this [form](#).*




**Undergraduate Students** – Appointments for career planning, résumé building, cover letter development, interview prep and work search strategies.




**Master's/PhD Students** – Appointments for career planning, résumé building, cover letter development, interview prep and work search strategies.




**Postdoctoral Fellows** – Appointments for career planning, résumé building, cover letter development, interview prep and work search strategies.



**Alumni** – Appointments for career planning, résumé building, cover letter development, interview prep and work search strategies. Access 3 free, individual appointments (non-transferrable) and discounted rates (\$40/appointment) after the third appointment.



**UWaterloo Employees** – Appointments for career planning, résumé building, cover letter development, interview prep and work search strategies.



**RD: Career Fundamentals** – TA meetings for résumé and mock interviews. *\*Only for students currently enrolled in the course.*

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**YOU+WATERLOO**

*Our greatest impact happens together.*